# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

CASE NO.: 1:19-cv-03297

JUL 10 2023

WEINER, Clerk
BYN WEIMER, Clerk

Federal Trade Commission,

Plaintiff,

V.

Equifax Inc.,

Defendant.

#### VERIFIED MOTION TO EXTEND CLAIM NOTICE DEADLINE DUE TO NON-SERVICE AND EXCUSABLE NEGLECT

Class Member Elroy Phillips (hereinafter "Phillips"), pursuant to applicable rules of the Court files this Motion to Extend Claim Notice Deadline Due to Non-Service and Excusable Neglect and in cause and support will state:

- 1. This case came to this Court as an MDL proceeding arising out of the Equifax data breach [Doc. #22]. As part of the settlement, Equifax agreed to pay the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and fifty (50) U.S. states and territories, which alleged that the credit reporting company's failure to take reasonable steps to secure its network led to a data breach in 2017 that affected approximately 147 million people. Class Member Elroy Phillips was one of those people (Ex. "5").
- 2. A Settlement Administrator was/is tasked with the distribution of the funds to affected persons using the Settlement Administrator's web site.
- 3. On November 16, 2022, Phillips submitted his extended claim with accompanying documents proving how he had been affected in addition to documentation demonstrating his losses. Phillips was assigned a claim number of PCQNW-LH8TY (Ex. "1").

- 4. Phillips would periodically check the Settlement Administrator's website to see the status of his claim.
- 5. On about June 20, 2023, Phillips checked the Settlement Administrator's website to check the status of his claim and was advised that his claim had been denied due to Incomplete Claim (Response Deadline Passed)(See Ex. "2" Copy of July 9,2023 version).
- 6. On June 21, 2023, Phillips contacted the Claims Administrator via phone and email and advised the Claims Administrator that according to its website my claim had been denied for incompleteness and the deadline had passed. Phillips' further advised that he had not received any Notice indicating that his claim form was incomplete and needed to be corrected (Ex. "3).
- 7. On June 21, 2023, Phillips received an update to his query regarding his claim and was then told that he was "not" a member of the Settlement Class and was not eligible to Settlement benefits (Ex. "4") contrary to Phillips already being verified as a class member and still being identified as a member of the Settlement Class on the Settlement Administrator's website (Ex. "5").
- 8. On June 23, 2023, Phillips again called the Settlement Administrator and advised that he never received Notice and that he had checked all his emails and there simply was no Notice sent to him. Phillips further went on to ask the Settlement Administrator when was the supposed Notice sent, and was unable to get an exact date from the Settlement Administrator as to when the supposed Notice was sent, but was told that it was sent in March (Ex. "6").
- 9. Phillips submits that at no time did he receive a Notice of any sort from the Settlement Administrator or his agents. Phillips checked all past incoming and outgoing emails from and to Equifax, including his "Spam" folder and "junk" folder and there simply was no email sent to Phillips from the Settlement Administrator.

10. Phillips is a verified Settlement Class member by the Settlement Administrator's own

files and records (Ex. "5") and Phillips was not given Notice per terms of the Settlement

Agreement reached in this case as to his claim being incomplete.

11. Based on the facts of this matter, Phillips claim must be reinstated by this Court because

any nonfeasance cannot be attributed to Phillips as he was never served Notice advising him that

his claim was incomplete, and Phillips has exercised due diligence in bringing this matter to the

Court's attention.

WHEREFORE, Phillips prays that this motion will be granted, and the Court will grant the

following relief:

a) Issue an Order reinstating his original claim to the Settlement Administrator; (b) issue

an Order upon the Settlement Administrator directing said to provide Phillips with a copy of any

and all Notice(s) identifying deficiencies in his claim to the Settlement Administrator and (c); issue

an Order granting Phillips 30 days from the granting of this motion to have any deficiencies in his

claim to the Settlement Administrator corrected.

Respectfully submitted,

ELROY PHILLIPS

1103 35TH STREET

WEST PALM BEACH FL 33407

(561)301-8931

ephillipslaw@gmail.com

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 9th day of July 2023.

FI ROY DHII I IPS

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy have been furnished by U.S. mail to: James Cameron Tribble, Esq., 31 Atlanta Street, Marietta, Ga. 30060, John A. Yanchunis, Esq., 201 N. Franklin Street, Tampa, Fl. 33602, Settlement Administrator, JND Legal Administration, P.P. Box 91318, Seattle, Wa. 98111-9418 on this 9th day of July 2023.

Chry Philly's ELROY PHILLIPS

EXHIBIT '1'

## **EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT**

# **Check Your Claim Status**

Status Date 11/16/2022 Status

Received

Status Description

Your claim has been received by the Settlement

Claim Number: PCQNW-LH8TY

Administrator.

If you have any questions concerning the status of your claim, please refer to the FAQs or contact the Settlement Administrator.

## **EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT**

# Your Claim Summary

#### Your Information

Initial Claims Period Claim

Number(s)

First Name

ELROY

Last Name

PHILLIPS

Middle Initial

Alternative Name

**Mailing Address** 

1103 35TH ST

Apt No

City

WEST PALM BEACH,

Country

United States of America

State

Florida

Zip Code

33407

**Phone Number** 

(561) 301-8931

**Email Address** 

ephillipslaw@gmail.com

Year of Birth

1966

Cash Payment: Time Spent

O No spent time

Cash Payment: Money You Lost or Spent

Loss Type	Amount	Description of Loss or Money Spent and
Costs, expenses, and losses	and Date	Supporting Documents
due to identity theft, fraud, or misuse of your personal information incurred between january 23, 2020 and January 22, 2024.	\$21454.00	LOST \$20,000 ON SALES CONTRACT DUE TO
	2022-07-01	DECLINE IN FICO SCORE BASED ON IDENTITY
		THEFT, MISUSE OF IDENTITY AND FRAUD.
		<b>EARNEST MONEY WAS FOREFEITED BECAUSE I</b>
		COULDN'T SEE REQUISITE FINANCING, ALSO HAD
		TO PAY \$1,454 IN UNAUTHORIZED CHARGES ON
		CREDIT CARD. CONTRACT AND DOCMENTS
		ATTACHED.

Loss Type	Amount	Description of Loss or Money Spent and
Professional fees paid to	and Date	Supporting Documents
address identity theft incurred	\$6400.00	HAD TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL CREDIT
between January 23, 2020 and January 22, 2024.	2022-07-03	COUNSELING TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT,
		MISUSE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION AND TO
		ASSIST IN PERSONAL INFORMATION BLOCKING
		AND RETRIEVAL.

### **Supporting Documents**

DATA BREACH DOCUMENTS.pdf

# How Would You Like to Receive Your Cash Payment

Check

## Your Signature

Your claim will not be received by the Settlement Administrator until you click the "submit" button after your electronic signature. For security reasons, once you hit submit, you will not be able to make any changes to your claim form through this portal. However, you will still be able to go into the portal to upload supporting documentation if you haven't done so. If you later decide you need to change any of the information on your claim form, you will need to reach out to the Settlement Administrator directly.

i affirm under the laws of the United States that the information I have supplied in this claim form and any copies of documents that I am sending to support my claim are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and

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that I have not already received reimbursement for the claimed loss through other means.

I understand that I may be asked to provide more information by the Settlement Administrator before my claim is complete.

Type your name in the box below to electronically sign your claim\*

ELROY PHILLIPS

Please wait for your files to get uploaded.

DATA BREACH DOCUMENTS.pdf Uploading...

November 15, 2022

Date:

EXHIBIT '2'

### **EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT**

## Check Your Claim Status

Claim Number: PCQNW-LH8TY

Status Date

Status

Status Description

5/9/2023

Incomplete Claim (Response

Deadline Passed - Claim Denied)

You were issued an Incomplete Claim Notice. Per the terms of the Settlement, you were provided 30 days to respond. The deadline to respond has now passed and you did not respond. Accordingly, your claim has been

If you have any questions concerning the status of your claim, please refer to the FAQs or contact the Settlement Administrator.

EXHIBIT '3'

Gmail - Ticket#1311185/Denial of my claim - Has Been Updated



Elroy Phillips <ephillipslaw@gmail.com>

#### Ticket#1311185/Denial of my claim - Has Been Updated

Eiroy Phillips <ephillipslaw@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 22, 2023 at 6:46 AM

To: Equifax Breach Settlement Administrator <info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com>

I never received any notice and I am a member of the class. I checked my emails and there is no email from you providing me notice. My claim is valid and since your decision is arbitrary and in violation of the Settlement Agreement I will address this matter to the Court. Please provide me the case number, Clerk of Court address, and your counsel's name and address so i can forward a copy of my filing to said.

Sent by E A Phillips

On Jun 21, 2023, at 11:14 AM, Equifax Breach Settlement Administrator <info@equifaxbreachsettlement. com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

#### EXHIBIT '4'

From: Equifax Breach Settlement Administrator

info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com

Subject: Ticket#1311185/Denial of my claim -- Has Been Updated

Date: Jun 21, 2023 at 11:14:24 AM
To: ephillipslaw@gmail.com

-- REPLY above this line to respond--

Your ticket 1311185 - Denial of my claim, has been updated.

Dear Elroy,

You filed a claim in the Equifax Data Breach Settlement on November 15, 2022. We sent you an Incomplete Claim Notice in March that according to Equifax's records, you are not a member of the Settlement Class and are not eligible for Settlement benefits.

The Notice was sent to the email address you provided with your claim.

If you believe you are a Settlement Class Member, you had to follow the instructions in the Incomplete Claim Notice and provide the information requested by the deadline.

The Settlement Agreement establishes that Class Members will have 30 days to cure deficiencies, once notified of that deficiency. We cannot extend this court ordered deadline.

Regards,

**Equifax Data Breach Settlement Administrator** 

EXHIBIT '5'

**Check Your Eligibility** 

## **EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT**

### Thank You

Based on the information you provided, our records indicate your personal information was impacted by this incident. For more information, visit the FAQ page.

FILE A CLAIM

For Assisted Identity Restoration Services, please call Experian at 1-888-397-0079 and provide engagement number B023677.

#### EXHIBIT '6'

From: Equifax Breach Settlement Administrator

info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com

Subject: Ticket#1311185/Denial of my claim -- Has Been Updated

To: ephillipslaw@gmail.com

--REPLY above this line to respond-Your ticket 1311185 - Denial of my claim, has been updated.

Dear Elroy,

The Notice was sent to the email address you provided with your claim. The Settlement Agreement establishes that Class Members will have 30 days to cure deficiencies, once notified of that deficiency. We cannot extend this court ordered deadline.

Regards,

**Equifax Data Breach Settlement Administrator** 

Gmail - Your Email to the Equifax Breach Administrator - Ticket#1311185



Elroy Phillips <ephillipslaw@gmail.com>

#### Your Email to the Equifax Breach Administrator - Ticket#1311185

Equifax Information <info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com> To: ephillipslaw@gmail.com

Tue, Jun 20, 2023 at 6:35 AM

-REPLY above this line to respond--

Thank you for contacting the Equifax Data Breach Settlement Administrator. Your email has been received and will be answered as quickly as possible.

Your ticket number is 1311185. Please reference this in further communications. In the meantime, please see our Frequently Asked Questions, located at https://www.equifaxbreachsettlement.com/faq.

Thank you.

7/9/23, 10:35 PM



Elroy Phillips <ephillipslaw@gmail.com>

#### Denial of my claim

Elroy Phillips <ephillipslaw@gmail.com> To: info@equifaxbreachsettlement.com

Tue, Jun 20, 2023 at 6:34 AM

I never received any correspondence from but the initial correspondence you sent me acknowledging my claim. As such my claim should not have been denied and I ask that we set this matter for a court hearing.

## **EQUIFAX DATA BREACH SETTLEMENT**

## Check Your Claim Status

Claim Number: PCQNW-LH8TY

Status Date

Status

Status Description

5/9/2023

Incomplete Claim (Response

Deadline Passed - Claim Denied)

You were issued an Incomplete Claim Notice, Per the terms of the Settlement, you were provided 30 days to respond. The deadline to respond has now passed and you did not respond. Accordingly, your claim has been denied.

If you have any questions concerning the status of your claim, please refer to the FAQs or contact the Settlement Administrator.